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A.—The building referred to was handed over to the Local Government on the usual condition of relinquishment if required for military purposes. It was at first used for a dispensary and on its transfer for the school referred to.

Government girls' school, Kumbakonam.

357 Q.—MR. R. SRINIVASA AYYANGAR: Will the hon. the Minister for Education be pleased to state—

(a) whether it is a fact that some time ago there was a proposal to make over the Government girls' school at Kumbakonam to the local Town High School Committee ;

(b) whether it is a fact that the said Committee accepted the proposal ;

(c) whether it is a fact that thereafter the Inspectress of Girls' Schools, Southern Circle, under instructions from the Director of Public Instruction withdrawing the said offer, proposed to hand over the school to the local mission, and if so, to state the reasons therefor and lay the papers on the table ;

(d) whether a similar offer was made to the local Municipal Council or other public bodies ; and

(e) whether the Government have passed any and what orders on the subject of divesting themselves of management of this institution ?

A.—(a), (b), (c), (d) & (e) In pursuance of the policy laid down by Government in consequence of the passing of the Madras Elementary Education Act, 1920, that they should withdraw from the direct control of elementary schools, steps have been taken since 1921 and are still being taken to transfer elementary schools formerly under direct Government control to the control of local bodies (except in the Agency tracts).

The Municipal Council, Kumbakonam, was requested by the Director of Public Instruction in September 1922 to express its willingness to take over the management of the Government girls' school at that place. In February 1923 the Council reported that it was not in favour of taking over the management of the school. The Director of Public Instruction was consequently obliged to investigate if any other educational body working in Kumbakonam would be willing to take over the control of the school. Three educational bodies, viz., the Town High School Committee, the Theosophical Society and the Roman Catholic Mission, were asked by him if they would be prepared to assume control of the school and maintain it as an aided school. The two former societies would accept no financial responsibility, but the third, viz., the Roman Catholic Mission, was prepared to take over the school and maintain it as an aided elementary school receiving aid from the District Educational Council, Government making over only the use of the building and its equipment. At this time the public of Kumbakonam endeavoured to induce the Municipal Council to accept the management of the school. The Director therefore requested the Municipal Council to reconsider its decision. A copy of the Standing Committee's resolution agreeing to take

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up the school has recently been received by him and the Chairman of the Municipal Council has been requested to have the question considered by the Council.

Mr. S. SATYAMURTI :—“ May I ask, Sir, the hon. the Minister for Education to say whether, if the Kumbakonam Municipal Council is now willing to take over the management of the institution, the Government will be prepared to hand it over to them ? ”

The hon. Rao Bahadur Sir A. P. PATRO :—“ That is a problem which I am not prepared to solve.”

The University of Madras.

358 Q.—Mr. S. SATYAMURTI : Will the hon. the Minister for Education be pleased to state—

- (a) the amount of grants sanctioned or paid to the new University of Madras, after its reconstitution ;
- (b) the main purposes for which the grants have been sanctioned or paid ; and
- (c) whether any money has been paid for the publication of a History of India in England ?

A.—(a), (b) & (c) The following grants have been sanctioned to the University in the current official year :—

	RS.
(1) Usual recurring grant for University Professorships, Library staff, etc.	65,000
(2) Travelling allowance of Fellows and Members of Boards of Studies	20,000
(3) Vice-Chancellor's salary	23,387
(4) Publication of a 'History of South India' by Mr. Robert Sewell	8,250
Total ...	1,16,637

Mr. S. SATYAMURTI :—“ May I ask the hon. the Minister as to why the grant of 3 lakhs—I speak subject to correction—which was budgeted for in the last budget, has not been wholly paid over to the University of Madras ? ”

The hon. Rao Bahadur Sir A. P. PATRO :—“ It is again a matter on which I must draw the hon. Member's attention to the provisions of the University Act wherein the conditions under which grants are made are given.”

Mr. S. SATYAMURTI :—“ Are there any conditions at all in the University Act with regard to the grant ? I know there is none.”

The hon. Rao Bahadur Sir A. P. PATRO :—“ There was no definite scheme prepared by the new University, because the new University bodies were not brought into existence yet.”

Mr. S. SATYAMURTI :—“ May I know whether the Government have since imposed any conditions on the grant to the University of Madras that has been constituted.”